Stan Lee PRESENTS: G.I. JOE A REAL AMERICAN HERO™

LOOSE ENDS
DAWN: THE NORTHERN OUTSKIRTS OF WASHINGTON D.C....
CLUTCH! HAWK IS STILL ALIVE! B-BUT I SAW COBRA COMMANDER SHOOT HIM IN THE BACK THREE TIMES!! HOW--
WHEN HE SAW HOW BAD THE ODDS WERE AGAINST US ON THIS MISSION, HAWK DECIDED TO STACK THE DECK WITH AN ARMORED VEST UNDER HIS UNIFORM.
...BALLISTIC NYLON MIGHT PREVENT BULLET PENETRATION BUT IT DOESN'T SOFTEN THE IMPACT MUCH. HAWK'S STILL IN A WORLD O' HURT--
IF WILD BILL AND DOC CAN'T MEDEVAC HIM OUT OF HERE ASAP* INTERNAL BLEEDING MIGHT DO HIM IN--
*AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

LARRY HAMA	MIKE VOSBURG	JON D'AGOSTINO	JOE ROSEN	G. ROUSSOS	DENNY O'NEIL	JIM SHOOTER
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G.I. JOE - A REAL AMERICAN HERO - Vol. 1, No. 17, November, 1983. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James R. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Vice President, Publishing, Mike Sanfilippo, Vice President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices. Published monthly. G.I. JOE, HAWK, SCARLETT, BREAKER, DOC, DESTRO, SNAKE EYES, ROLL CLUTCH, COVER GIRL, TRIP WIRE, ZAP, THE BARONESS, GUNG HO, FLASH, SHORT FUSE, ACE, SNAKE EYES, MAJOR BLUDD, STALKER, CRANK, SLAM, TORPEDO, IRON GRENADIER, and COBRA COMMANDER are trademarks of HASBRO INDUSTRIES, INC., and the likenesses of the characters on which those names are applied are the property of HASBRO INDUSTRIES, INC., and the trademarks and likenesses are used with permission of HASBRO INDUSTRIES, INC. G.I. JOE® Copyright © 1983 HASBRO INDUSTRIES, INC. All rights reserved. All other material copyright © 1983 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 60¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate $7.20 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $9.20. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any portion or material removed from it or in a mutilated condition. Postmaster: Send address changes to G.I. Joe, Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

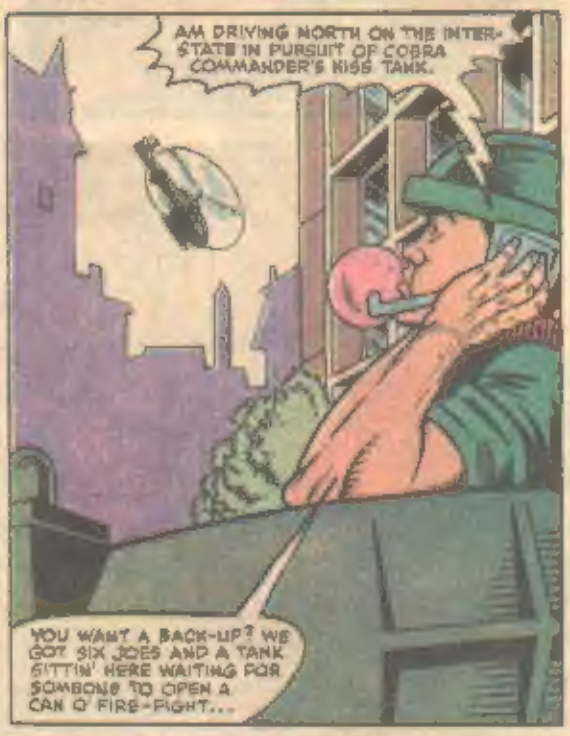
DOC! DON'T BE DRAGGING TAIL! HAWK NEEDS A PLASMA HOOK-UP AND SOME--
WHOA! WHO'S THE DOC HERE ANYHOW? I'LL DECIDE WHAT TREATMENT THE MAN GETS--
--I DON'T GET IN YOUR WAY WHEN YOU'RE BUSTING HEADS, DON'T GET IN MINE WHEN I'M ROLLING PILLS!
IS HE... WILL HE--
TAKE A WALK
LET THE MAN DO HIS JOB, SCARLETT...
OH, I KNOW. IT'S JUST SO... FRUSTRATING SOMETIMES--
SCARLETT! WE INTERCEPTED YOUR CALL TO WILD BILL FOR A MEDEVAC--
--IS IT HAWK?
HOW BAD IS IT?
DID YOU SEE WHO DID IT?
YES. IT'S HAWK, AND DOC'S WORKING ON HIM NOW. WE'LL GET HIM ON A STRETCHER AND FLY HIM TO THE HOSPITAL--

HONK HONK HONK HONK
OH FOR PETE'S SAKE...
THE TANK'S TYING UP TRAFFIC. WE'VE GOT SOME ANGRY CIVILIANS BACKED UP BEHIND US!
LET 'EM WAIT. HAWK AIN'T MOVING 'TIL DOC SAYS IT'S OK!
HONK HONK HONK
HEY! SOME PEOPLE HAVE TO WORK FOR A LIVING. YOU KNOW! MOVE THAT PILE OF IRON!
WHO DID IT, SCARLETT?
IT WAS COBRA COMMANDER. HAWK WAS STRUGGLING WITH DESTRO IN THE BACK OF THE M551 TANK. COBRA COMMANDER WAS IN THE TURRET--
I'M WARNING YOU, I'M BEGINNING TO LOSE MY PATIENCE! I HAVE A LOT OF INFLUENCE ON DEFENSE COMMITTEES--
--HE SHOT HAWK. BACK-SHOT HIM!
FILS DE COCHON...
HONK HONK
THIS BE SOME FINE CAR YOU GOT HERE, PELLA! SURE THING! REAL FINE
WHAT THEY BE CALLIN' THIS HERE TYPE CAR NOW?
UH... IT'S A C-CLASSIC... SHELBY GT C-COBRA--

COBRA?!!
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT! THAT DOOR IS GOING TO COST--
SPRACK!!
OH MY G-GOODNESS--
CRUNCH!
I HATE COBRAS!
I HEAR THAT NAME-- IT MAKES ME WANT TO SMASH THINGS!
....
KA-CHONGG!!
SNIFF
CRACK!!
C'MON, GUNG-HO GIVE US A HAND SECURING HAWK TO THE COPTER. HE'S ABOUT READY FOR A LEISURELY FLIGHT TO BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL
HAWK'S ALL RIGHT?
ULP...
HE'S GONNA BE FINE.

...MOST ARMORED VESTS WON'T STOP A 9MM HARDBALL ROUND. LUCKILY HAWK WAS WEARING A SM407 MODEL WITH EXTRA BALLISTIC LAYERS...

MAKE SURE THOSE STRAPS ARE TIGHT—
XO, ZAP...THIS IS BREAKER. WE'RE LOADING HAWK ON THE DRAGON-FLY NOW. WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT STATUS?


AM DRIVING NORTH ON THE INTER-STATE IN PURSUIT OF COBRA COMMANDER'S KISS TANK.
YOU WANT A BACK-UP? WE GOT SIX JOES AND A TANK SITTIN' HERE WAITING FOR SOMBONE TO OPEN A CAN O' FIRE-FIGHT...

NO THANKS, BREAKER. I'VE GOT GRUNT, SHORT-FUSE, ROCK 'N ROLL AND FLASH WITH ME. THEY'RE GREEDY...
...THEY DON'T WANT TO SHARE THAT COBRA COMMANDER WITH ANYONE WHEN WE CATCH UP TO HIM.

...BESIDES, WE'VE GOT SOME EXTRA FIRE-POWER ALONG FOR THE RIDE AS WELL AS A FRIENDLY "EYE IN THE SKY"!
YOU LISTENING IN ON THE COMMUNICATIONS NET, ACE?

LISTENING AND WATCHING. ZAP!

I'M ABOUT TO PROCEED FURTHER NORTH ALONG THE INTERSTATE AT LOWEST CRUISING SPEED...

...SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPOT YOUR TARGET RIGHT QUICK!
IT'S NOT EASY TO HIDE A TANK ON HIGHWAY!

ANOTHER MOMENT...
DR. VENOM! DESTRO'S IN SOME SORT OF TRANCE! HE JUST KEEPS STARING BACK AT THE CITY!
FORGET HIM, COBRA COMMANDER! WE HAVE OTHER MORE URGENT MATTERS TO WORRY ABOUT...

...WE ARE TOO VULNERABLE ON THE OPEN ROAD. WE MUST FORMULATE AN ESCAPE PLAN AND IMPLEMENT--

HE HAS WITNESSED THE EXTINCTION OF THE GREAT LOVE OF HIS LIFE, THE BARONESS.
YOU'RE WRONG, VENOM! DESTRO IS THE IMMEDIATE THREAT! THE EVENTS OF THE PREVIOUS NIGHT MAY HAVE UNHINGED HIM. WHO KNOWS THE THOUGHTS THAT RUN THROUGH HIS BRAIN?

"SHE WAS HIS REASON FOR EXISTENCE. ALL HIS AMBITION AND ALL HIS SKILLS WERE BENT TO ONE PURPOSE: TO WIN HER EVERLASTING LOVE.
"HE THOUGHT HE HAD TO WIN HER LOVE. HE HAD TO PROVE HIMSELF TO HER. IT NEVER OCCURRED TO HIM THAT THE THING HE WANTED WAS ALWAYS THERE. HE MUST HAVE REALIZED THE TRUTH AT THE MOMENT SHE SACRIFICED HERSELF TO SAVE HIM FROM MAJOR BLUDD!
"NOW HIS TRAIN OF LOGIC PLODS INEXORABLY TOWARDS THE NEXT OBVIOUSLY GLARING QUESTION: WHY WOULD MAJOR BLUDD TRY TO KILL DESTRO?"
THE FIRST ANSWER TO COME TO MIND MIGHT BE: "BECAUSE COBRA COMMANDER ORDERED HIM TO." THAT'S LOGICAL.
DEADLY LOGIC...
BUT NOT THE TRUTH.
NOT
MAJOR BLUDD WAS IN LOVE WITH THE BARONESS. KILLING YOU WOULD HAVE ELIMINATED HIS ARCH RIVAL FOR HER AFFECTIONS. WHEN HIS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS FOILED BY THE BARONESS HERSELF, HE KILLED HER IN SPITE SO NO ONE COULD HAVE HER!
OF COURSE! HE WANTED HER FOR HIMSELF! I WAS BLIND. BLIND!
BLUDD WILL NOT ESCAPE MY WRATH. THERE IS NO SAFE PLACE ON EARTH FOR HIM. I SWEAR IT. HE IS MINE!!

WOW! DID JA SEE THAT?
YOU BET! IT WAS ONE OF THOSE NEW SWING-WING JETS!
WHAT'S IT DOIN' FLYIN' SO LOW?
WHOOOOOOSSHHH
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE HE'S HELPING SMOKIE FLUSH OUT SPEEDERS ON THE INTERSTATE...
SKY-STRIKER CALLING APC, DO YOU COPY?
LOUD AND CLEAR, ACE.
GOT VISUAL CONTACT WITH THE BAD-GUYS, ZAP! THEY'RE ON A PARALLEL ROUTE JUST WEST OF YOU. YOU CAN READ ALL ABOUT IT IN THE FUNNY PAPERS!
TOO MUCH CIVILIAN TRAFFIC FOR WEAPONRY, HE'S ALL YOURS!
THANKS MUCH, AMIGO! HOWS-ABOUT MAINTAINING A HOLDING PATTERN OVER THE TARGET JUST IN CASE WE NEED SOME OLD-FASHIONED AIR-SUPPORT?
YOU GOT IT!
WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE?
JUST FOUND OUT WHERE THE BAD-GUYS ARE...
...AND WE'RE GOING TO HEAD THEM OFF AT THE PASS!
INTERSTAT
WESTBOUN

MEANWHILE IN MIAMI, HUBBA SNAKE-EYES AND THE ESKIMO MERCENARY KWINN ARE STILL JAILED AFTER CRASH-LANDING A STOLEN BOMBER ON THE BEACH...
...SO, SHADOW-MAN, NEITHER OF US HAVE AN EXPENSIVE LAWYER TO TRACE PAPER FAVORS FOR OUR FREEDOM LIKE DR. VENOM DID...
...BUT I SUSPECT YOU TOO HAVE A HIDDEN RESOURCE THAT THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT!
MINE IS A SAW-BLADE, HIDDEN IN A HOLLOW HEEL...
...AND YOURS I SEE IS A HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL!
NOT MUCH USE TO US IN THIS CELL, I'M AFRAID...
...BUT THEN WE WON'T BE HERE FOR TOO MUCH LONGER!
AT A TOLL BOOTH NEAR BALTIMORE...
...TOO MANY VARIABLES AT PLAY HERE! THIS PRODUCE TRUCK IS A TRAP. I CAN'T CONTROL THE SITUATION...
NEW YORK CITY
TRUCKS & BUSES
LEFT LANE

JUST HOLD ON A DOGGONE MINUTE HERE. ONE OF YOUR STICKERS IS EXPIRED. DON'T FRET NONE. JUST A ROUTINE CHECK...
A BUS, TRANSPORT AND HOSTAGES COMBINED. A SITUATION I CAN CONTROL!
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STAY YOUR HAND DRIVER! LEST A HERO'S LAURELS ADORN THY BROW IN DEATH'S SLUMBER!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, MAC! YOU GOT THE GUN!
PROCEED NORTH, DRIVER! ANY DEVIATION FROM MY INSTRUCTION SHALL RESULT IN MORTAL INJURY TO A PASSENGER!
MAJOR BLUDD! OF ALL THE BUSES FOR HIM TO HI JACK!
WELL IT'S GONNA TAKE MORE THAN A HALF-BAKED POET TO STOP OL' SCAR-FACE FROM GETTING HOME TO CONEY ISLAND!
HEY! COME BACK HERE! WHATCHA THINK YOU DOIN'?
TV4 NEWS
SCREEEEEE

GEE STARLOG THAT BUS
NOPE GRAND
BUT

THAT GUY RIDING
THAT'S

ANOTHER
HERE COME
BRUTHER
MORNIN GENTLEMEN
BLUFF
HM

NO OFFENSE MEANT BUT I NEVER GAMBLE WITH ANYBODY WHO DOESN'T LOOK LIKE NO SHOOTER TO ME
DICE ARE NOT MY FORTE. MY FRIEND HERE SHOOTS. I HOLD THE MONEY
WE'RE SAVED
I'VE ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH COBRA CENTRAL IN SPRINGFIELD
THAT JUST MEANS WE HAVE TO STAY EXPOSED ON THE HIGHWAY FOR EVEN LONGER
WE'LL GET AWAY NOT EVEN WILL KEEP ME FROM MY REVENGE
WE'RE CLOSING IN FAST WE SHOULD HAVE VISUAL CONTACT JUST OVER THE NEXT RISE
ZAP THIS BREAKER WE JUST PICKED UP A WARNING FROM A RADAR STATION IN MARKHAM

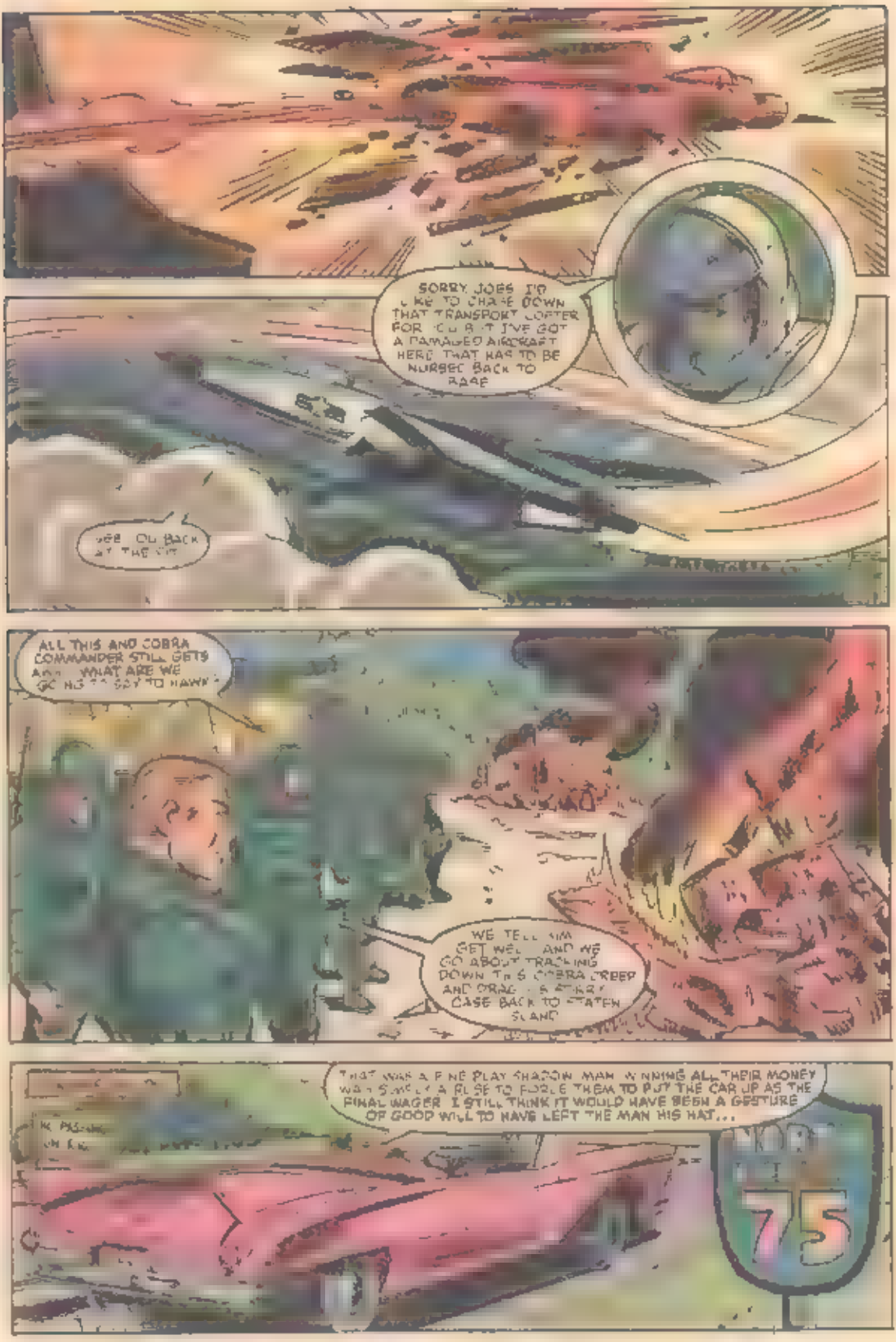
HOW MANY AND WHAT
VOOOOM!
AND TRY TO RAISE ACE ON THE COMMUNICATIONS NET
YOU HEAR THAT ACE? TAKE SOME HEAT OFF OUR BOYS WHY DON'TCHA
I'M ON THE CASE BREAKER
AND A WEE BIT OF EXTRA ALTITUDE FOR THAT DISTINCT ADVANTAGE IN THE ART OF DOG-FIGHTING

WE CAN'T DODGE BULLETS FOREVER STALKER!
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO, GRAND SLAM? RUN MY OFF THE ROAD?
PLEASE LEAVE ME BE AND I'LL GIVE YOU ANOTHER DAY
BLAM!
PULL UP ON THE LEFT ON HIS BLIND SIDE
I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA TRY
BUT THAT DON'T MEAN I HAVE TO WATCH
WHO? THE ROOM!

TH ALL WER FOR YOU MAJOR BLOOD
OVER NOT TIL I BREATHE MY LAST
..YOU!!
THWACK!
LOOK! THEY'RE SPLITTING UP THE JET FIGHTERS ARE HEADING FOR THE CEILING AND HELICOPTERS

RATATATATAT!
... ARE HEADING FOR US.
ROCK N ROLL! DO YOUR THING!
ROAAAAAAAAR!
CAN'T HEAR YOU ZAP MY TWIN JULIANS ARE TOO LOUD
TRIPLE PLAY WAY TO GO
WHUP WHUP WHUP
WHUP WHUP WHUP
BUT THE BIG FISH ARE GETTING AWAY THAT TRAITOR BOAT COPTER JUST PICKED UP THE HISS TANK CARRYING COBRA COMMANDER DESTRO AND DR VENOM
WE'LL HAVE OUR ACE IN THE HOLE

GOT BOTH BOOTS ON MY FEET, THIS BOYS
AM FOLDING WINGS AND HEAD NO FOR THE BASEMENT
ONE OF 'EM CLIPPED ME
I AM FEELING MY HAIR BEGIN GROWING ON MY SPINE
HE'S CONFIDENT
HE'S NOT EXPECTING ME TO FLAP OUT MY AIR BRAKES
RIGHT INTO MY SIGHTS


SORRY JOES I'D LIKE TO CHASE DOWN THAT TRANSPORT COPTER FOR CUBIT I'VE GOT A DAMAGED AIRCRAFT HERE THAT HAS TO BE NURSED BACK TO BASE
JOE OUT BACK AT THE PIT
ALL THIS AND COBRA COMMANDER STILL GETS AWAY WHAT ARE WE GOING TO SAY TO HAWK?
WE TELL HIM GET WELL AND WE GO ABOUT TRACKING DOWN THIS COBRA CREEP AND DRAG HIS SORRY CASE BACK TO STATEN ISLAND
THAT WAS A FINE PLAY SHADOW MAN WINNING ALL THEIR MONEY WAS SURELY A RUSE TO FOOLE THEM TO PUT THE CAR UP AS THE FINAL WAGER I STILL THINK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL TO HAVE LEFT THE MAN HIS HAT...
75

HRMPH. WHAT HYPOCRISY! HERE I AM, RIDING THE ROAD TO VENGEANCE AND I SPEAK OF GESTURES OF GOODWILL. IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO KNOW THE WEASEL SPIRIT IN YOURSELF, MY FRIEND.
YOU MUST WRESTLE WITH THE WEASEL AND THROW HIM DOWN. YOU MUST KEEP HIM FROM WHISPERING REVENGE IN THE EAR OF YOUR SOUL FOR ALL YOUR WAKING HOURS.
BUT I AM THROUGH WRESTLING WITH THE WEASEL. WE GO TO COMBAT SLAND SHADOW MAN. WE TAKE THE FIRST STEP
TOWARDS VENGEANCE.
WE'RE HOME. DESTRO, THE HQ SISTER WAS LANDED.
HE DOESN'T HEAR TOO WELL SINCE A COMMANDO
HE'S LOST IN HIS THOUGHTS AND HIS SORROW AGAIN.
YOU'D BETTER HOPE AND PRAY THAT MAJOR BLUDD'S DEAD.
BECAUSE IF DESTRO GETS BLUDD ALIVE AND THE MAJOR LETS SLIP THAT IT WAS YOU WHO ORDERED THE KILLING
WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS MAN? LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY USED HIS FACE FOR A TRAMPOLINE

TAKE THIS PATIENT INTO THE EMERGENCY OPERATING ROOM IMMEDIATELY! WE'LL NEED WHOLE BLOOD AND THE FRACTURE TEAM!
I TOLD YOU TO SUBDUE THE MAN, NOT TAP-DANCE ON HIS HEAD! MAJOR BLUDD HAS GOT TO DO SOME SERIOUS TALKING. IF HIS JAW IS BUSTED--
CUT ME SOME SLACK, STALKER! I ONLY HIT HIM ONCE OR TWICE...THREE OR FOUR TIMES AT THE MOST, HONEST! HALF A DOZEN TOPS!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
THAT PATIENT IS A DANGEROUS TERRORIST AND--
SURGERY
HE'S IN CRITICAL CONDITION! HE'S NOT GOING TO JUMP UP AND BE A THREAT TO ANYBODY FOR A LONG TIME!
EIGHTY PER-CENT! BOTH THESE GUYS CAN WAIT! SHE'S PRIORITY!
NURSE! WATCH THESE TWO. ONE OF 'EM IS SUPPOSED TO BE A DANGEROUS CHARACTER
ATTENTION! ALL EMERGENCY TEAMS REPORT TO THE BURN UNIT! FEMALE PATIENT HAS ARRIVED WITH 3RD DEGREE BURNS OVER 80% OF BODY SURFACE!
OBVIOUSLY, THEY WERE SPEAKING OF ME! MY WOUNDS WERE MORE PRETENSE THAN FACT! NOW SHOW ME THE PARKING LOT OR I SHALL BE FORCED TO DEMONSTRATE THE DANGEROUS QUALITIES THEY--
I THINK NOT, BLUDD...
THE DANGEROUS CHARACTER THEY WERE REFERRING TO WAS ME!

IT ALWAYS SEEMS TO MAKE THE DOCTORS UP-TIGHT WHEN THE PATIENT REFUSES TO REMOVE HIS SHOULDER HOLSTER OR GIVE UP HIS .45!
NURSE GO FIND ME SOMEBODY WITH A GREEN SUIT AND A GUN...

UH... ARE YOU-- HAWK?
THAT FEMALE BURN VICTIM ASKED TO SPEAK TO YOU...

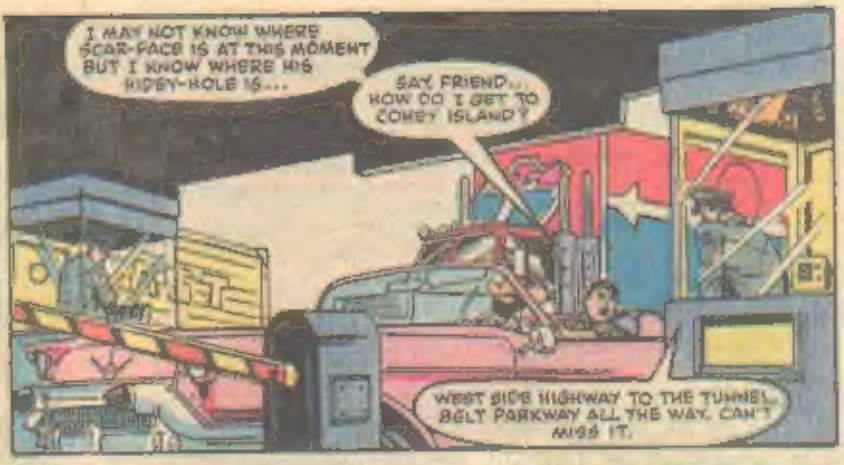
...BEFORE SHE PASSED OUT.
MAYBE YOU CAN IDENTIFY HER. SHE WAS WEARING THESE...

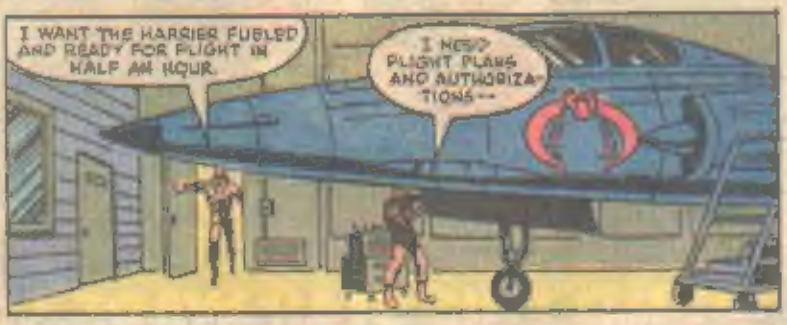
COBRA COMMANDER? I HAVE THREE RATHER DISTRESSING BITS OF NEWS FOR YOU...
HAWK IS ALIVE. MAJOR BLUDD IS ALIVE AND IN THE HANDS OF THE JOE TEAM. THE BARONESS IS IN THE BURN UNIT. SHE MAY OR MAY NOT SURVIVE, IF SHE LIVES, SHE'LL NEVER LOOK THE SAME.

...I HAVE ALREADY PLACED MY COVER IN JEOPARDY BY LYING TO THE JOES ABOUT BLUDD'S CONDITION. I AWAIT YOUR ORDERS AS TO THE DISPOSITION OF OUR TWO "LIABILITIES." ALL HAIL MIGHTY COBRA.

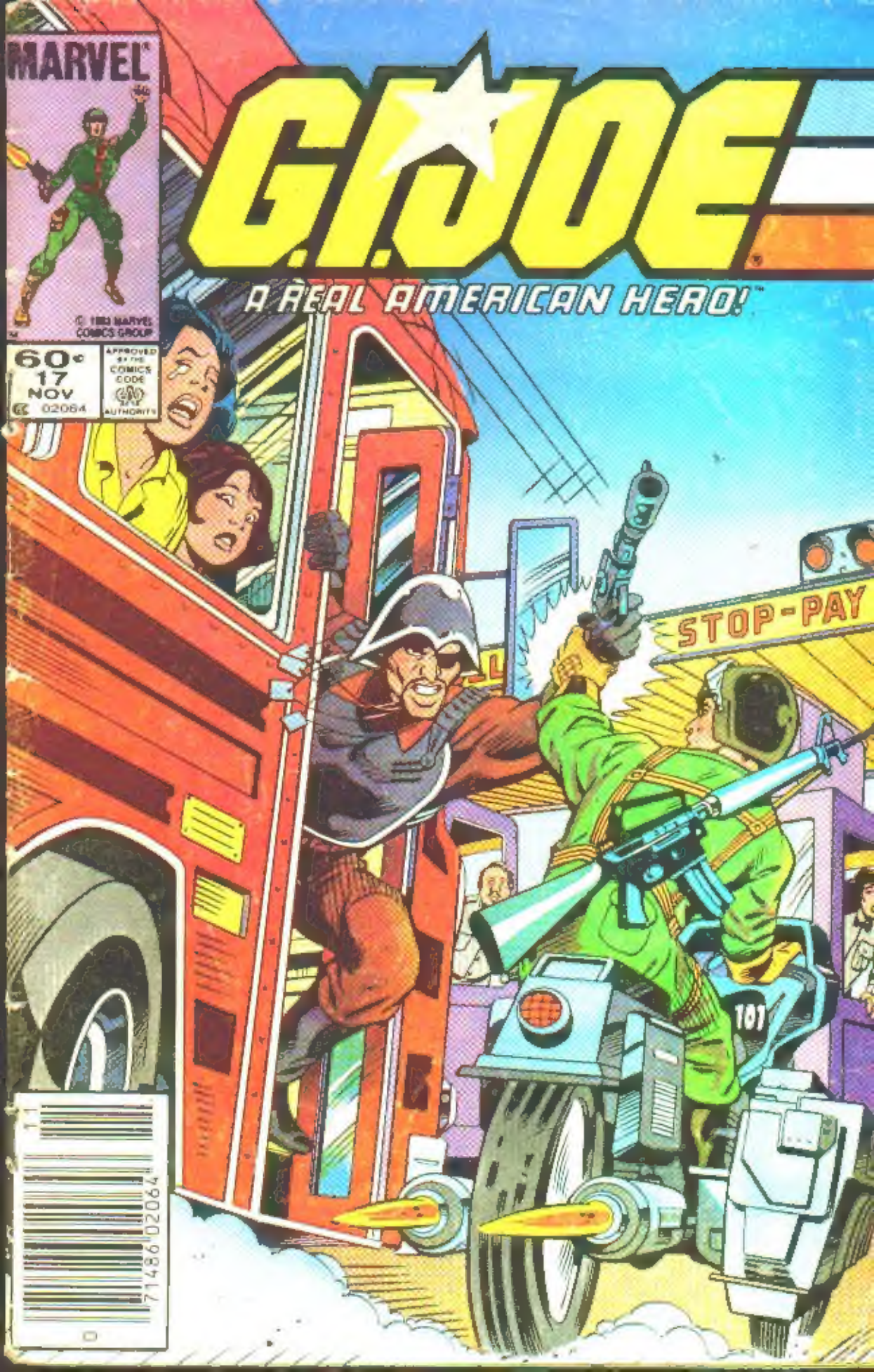
HAWK IS STILL ALIVE, DESTRO... AND MAJOR BLUDD HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE JOES...
THEY'RE PROBABLY TAKING BLUDD TO G.I. JOE HEADQUARTERS...
BLAST! IF WE ONLY STILL HAD SCAR-FACE WE COULD CONTINUE WITH OUR ORIGINAL PLAN TO USE SCAR-FACE TO FERRET OUT THE LOCATION OF G.I. JOE HEADQUARTERS BY INFECTING HIM WITH THE TOXIN AND LETTING HIM GET CAPTURED!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND SCAR-FACE...
IMPOSSIBLE. HE'S GONE TO GROUND--
HE HAS A HIDEOUT. AND I KNOW WHERE IT IS...

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE ON THE HUDSON RIVER BETWEEN FORT LEE, NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK CITY...
YOU SEE, SHADOW-MAN... SCAR-FACE IS THE KEY. SCAR-FACE KNOWS WHERE SPRINGFIELD IS, AND SOMEBODY IN SPRINGFIELD KNOWS WHERE DR. VENOM IS...


I MAY NOT KNOW WHERE SCAR-FACE IS AT THIS MOMENT BUT I KNOW WHERE HIS HIDEY-HOLE IS...
SAY, FRIEND... HOW DO I GET TO CONEY ISLAND?
WEST SIDE HIGHWAY TO THE TUNNEL. BELT PARKWAY ALL THE WAY. CAN'T MISS IT.



NEXT ISSUE • CONEY ISLAND!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